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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

TAP MOBILE DATING, INC.,
Plaintiff,
v.
TAP DATING, INC., et al.,
Defendants.

Case No. 2:23-cv-09071-TJH-AS

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER

1 1. A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

2 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential,
3 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure
4 and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted.
5 Accordingly, the Parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the
6 following Stipulated Protective Order. The Parties acknowledge that this Order does
7 not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that
8 the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited
9 information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable
10 legal principles. The Parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3 below,
11 that this Order does not entitle them to file Confidential Information under seal; Civil
12 Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that
13 will be applied when a Party seeks permission from the Court to file material under
14 seal.

15 1.2 GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT

16 This action is likely to involve trade secrets, customer and pricing lists and
17 other valuable research, development, commercial, financial, technical and/or
18 proprietary information for which special protection from public disclosure and from
19 use for any purpose other than prosecution of this action is warranted. Such
20 confidential and proprietary materials and information consist of, among other things,
21 confidential business or financial information, information regarding confidential
22 business practices, or other confidential research, development, or commercial
23 information (including information implicating privacy rights of third parties),
24 information otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which may be privileged
25 or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal statutes, court rules, case
26 decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of information, to
27 facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials,
28 to adequately protect information the parties are entitled to keep confidential, to

1 ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of such material in
 2 preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their handling at the end of the
 3 litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such information is
 4 justified in this matter. It is the intent of the parties that information will not be
 5 designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing be so designated
 6 without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential, non-public
 7 manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part of the public record of this
 8 case.

9 2. DEFINITIONS

10 2.1 Action: *Tap Mobile Dating, Inc. v. Tap Dating, Inc., et al.*, Case No.
 11 2:23-cv-09071-TJH-AS.

12 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Nonparty that challenges the designation
 13 of information or items under this Order.

14 2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of
 15 how it is generated, stored, or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection
 16 under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) and as specified above in the Good Cause
 17 Statement.

18 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their
 19 support staff).

20 2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Nonparty that designates information or
 21 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as
 22 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

23 2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless
 24 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,
 25 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or
 26 generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

1 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
2 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as
3 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

4 2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a Party to this Action.
5 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside
6 counsel.

7 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or
8 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

9 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a Party
10 to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a Party and have appeared in this
11 Action on behalf of that Party or are affiliated with a law firm that has appeared on
12 behalf of that Party, including support staff.

13 2.11 Party: any Party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
14 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their
15 support staffs).

16 2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
17 Discovery Material in this Action.

18 2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support
19 services (for example, photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
20 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
21 and their employees and subcontractors.

22 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
23 designated as "CONFIDENTIAL."

24 2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material
25 from a Producing Party.

26 3. SCOPE

27 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
28 Protected Material (as defined above) but also (1) any information copied or extracted

1 from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of
2 Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties
3 or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

4 Any use of Protected Material at trial will be governed by the orders of the trial
5 judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

6 4. DURATION

7 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations
8 imposed by this Order will remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise
9 in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition is the later of (1)
10 dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action, with or without prejudice, or (2)
11 final judgment after the completion and exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings,
12 remands, trials, or reviews of this Action, including the time limits for filing any
13 motions or applications for extension of time under applicable law.

14 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

15 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.

16 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this
17 Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies
18 under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for protection
19 only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that
20 qualify so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications
21 for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of
22 this Order.

23 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
24 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
25 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose
26 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating Party
27 to sanctions.
28

1 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
2 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
3 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

4 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
5 this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise
6 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection
7 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or
8 produced.

9 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

10 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents,
11 but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that the
12 Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" (hereinafter
13 "CONFIDENTIAL legend"), to each page that contains protected material. If only a
14 portion or portions of the material on a page qualify for protection, the Producing
15 Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate
16 markings in the margins).

17 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection
18 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated
19 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and
20 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be
21 deemed "CONFIDENTIAL." After the inspecting Party has identified the documents
22 it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents,
23 or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing
24 the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the "CONFIDENTIAL
25 legend" to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions
26 of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly
27 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the
28 margins).

(b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the deposition all protected testimony.

(c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information warrants protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s Scheduling Order.

6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the informal dispute resolution process set forth in the Court’s Procedures and Schedules. See <http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/honorable-alka-sagar>.

6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall continue to afford the

1 material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing
2 Party's designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

3 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

4 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is
5 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this
6 Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such
7 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the
8 conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a Receiving
9 Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL DISPOSITION).

10 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
11 location and in a manner secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the
12 people authorized under this Order.

13 7.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless
14 otherwise ordered by the Court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
15 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
16 "CONFIDENTIAL" only to:

17 (a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as well
18 as employees of that Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary
19 to disclose the information for this Action;

20 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the
21 Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

22 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
23 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
24 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

25 (d) the Court and its personnel;

26 (e) court reporters and their staff;

(f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

(h) during their depositions, witnesses and attorneys for witnesses, in the Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit A hereto; and (2) they will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the Court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

(i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel, mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

(a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

1 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued
2 by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

3 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with
4 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action
5 as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the subpoena
6 or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s permission. The
7 Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court
8 of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions should be construed as
9 authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action to disobey a lawful
10 directive from another court.

11 9. A NONPARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE
12 PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

13 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a
14 Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information
15 is protected by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the
16 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be
17 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

18 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
19 produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is
20 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s
21 confidential information, then the Party shall:

22 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party
23 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement
24 with a Non-Party;

25 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
26 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably
27 specific description of the information requested; and
28

1 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-
2 Party, if requested.

3 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within
4 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party
5 may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery
6 request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall
7 not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the
8 confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court.
9 Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense
10 of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

11 10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

12 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
13 Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this
14 Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in
15 writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts
16 to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or
17 persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order,
18 and (d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment and
19 Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

20 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE 21 PROTECTED MATERIAL

22 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain
23 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection,
24 the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil
25 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure
26 may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior
27 privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the
28 parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or

1 information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the
2 parties may incorporate their agreement in this stipulated protective order submitted
3 to the court.

4 12. MISCELLANEOUS

5 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any
6 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

7 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
8 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
9 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this
10 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any
11 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

12 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
13 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may
14 only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific
15 Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material under seal
16 is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information in the public
17 record unless otherwise instructed by the Court.

18 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

19 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60
20 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return
21 all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in this
22 subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,
23 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected
24 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving
25 Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same
26 person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies
27 (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or
28 destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies,

abstracts, compilations, summaries, or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

14. VIOLATION

Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary sanctions.

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

DATED: May 28, 2024

/s/ Stephen M. Doniger
Stephen M. Doniger, Esq.
Scott A. Burroughs, Esq.
Kelsey M. Schultz, Esq.
DONIGER / BURROUGHS
Attorneys for Plaintiff

DATED: May 28, 2024

/s/ Steven C. Vondran
Steven C. Vondran, Esq.
Law Offices of Steven C. Vondran, PC
Attorney for Defendant

FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: May 28, 2024

/s/

Honorable Alka Sagar
United States Magistrate Judge

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
_____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury
that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that
was issued by the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California on [date]
in the case of *Tap Mobile Dating, Inc. v. Tap Dating, et al.*; Case No. 2:23-cv-
09071-TJH-AS. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all terms of this
Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so
comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I
solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that
is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict
compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court
for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this
Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after
termination of this action. I hereby appoint _____ [print
or type full name] of _____ [print or type
full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in
connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this
Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: _____

City and State where signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____